2022 ONTARIO
LOBBY WEEK

A Fair Future For Ontario Students

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present numerous challenges and exacerbate pre-existing issues within the Post-Secondary Education sector in Ontario. Students and graduates are struggling with some of the highest tuition costs nationally, OSAP and other loan repayments, and are now also faced with financial uncertainty, homelessness, food insecurity, increasing mental health needs, economic instability, and more.

Resulting from high tuition fees and pandemic, Post-Secondary students are:



Source: StatsCan 2020



93%

of Canadians said they would have pursued post-secondary education after high school if they had not needed to pay tuition.

Source: Education for All Coalition, 2021

Students need tangible, meaningful action and they need it now. There is no reconstructing our provincial economy without students. High quality, fully-funded, and accessible Post-Secondary Education is an essential precondition for Ontario to flourish post-pandemic. The Ontario government needs to demonstrate how much they value education and how they are willing to support students as we move forward.

We believe the Ontario government can meet this essential task. This government can choose to be champions for Ontario students and invest in the future of the province. Students need strong partners in the provincial government who listen to their lived realities and who they can work together with.



1. **Tuition Fee**
   A 25% reduction in tuition fees for the next 4 years, towards the progressive elimination of tuition fees for all is the only way to assure justice for marginalized and especially racialized students in Ontario.

2. **OSAP**
   A transition of OSAP from a loan to a grants based program and ensure eligibility for all students; domestic, international, graduate, and part-time and continuing education.

3. **Indigenous Students**
   Address institutional inequities by providing direct funding to post-secondary institutions for Indigenous academic and cultural programming, Indigenous research, and mandatory anti-oppressive training for all institutional staff and faculty. Additionally, doubling the amount of funding to Indigenous Institutes to ensure reliable program funding.

4. **International Students**
   Eliminate all differential fees for International students to ensure equity and equality.

5. **OHIP for All**
   An immediate reinstatement of OHIP to all International students, including those who are on implied status and remove the requirement of having a full-time job to access OHIP while on a Post-Graduate Work Permit (PGWP).

6. **Student Union Autonomy**
   Enacted legislation to protect the autonomy and funding of student unions, student-run groups and organizations. This legislation will protect students' democratic rights and the student run services they rely on.

